NEWS ANALYSIS 1-1063 JULY 8, 1976
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THE VISIT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY HAS SOME THOUGHTS ON THE VISIT TO AMERICA OF BRITAIN'S QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND:

VOICE:

THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED STATES REACHED ITS CLIMAX LAST SUNDAY---THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACTUAL SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN SEVENTEEN SEVENTY-SIX. SO INTENSE WAS THE CELEBRATION THAT MANY AMERICANS WOKE UP ON MONDAY---AND ESPECIALLY ON TUESDAY, WHEN THE OFFICIAL HOLIDAY WEEKEND HAD BEEN COMPLETED--WITH A FEELING WHICH MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS POST-BICENTENNIAL DOLDRUMS. THEN THE BRITISH CAME TO THE RESCUE.

IN PARTICULAR, QUEEN ELIZABETH CAME TO THE RESCUE. IN WHAT MUST RANK AS ONE OF HISTORY'S MORE CURIOUS IRONIES, THE BRITISH MONARCHY---STERNLY REJECTED BY THE AMERICAN FOUNDING FATHERS TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO---IS PROVIDING ONE OF THE HIGH POINTS OF THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION. SO FAR, SHE AND PRINCE PHILIP HAVE BEEN TO WASHINGTON AND PHILADELPHIA, AND IN BOTH CITIES THE TRADITIONALLY ANTI-MONARCHICAL AMERICANS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CAPTIVATED. PARTLY THIS IS BECAUSE ROYALTY IS A RARE THING THESE DAYS. PARTLY IT IS BECAUSE QUEEN ELIZABETH IS A QUEEN AND NOT A KING; MILLIONS OF AMERICAN WOMEN ARE FASCINATED JUST TO SEE WHAT SHE WEARS AND HOW SHE WALKS. PARTLY IT IS DUE TO THE QUEEN'S OWN PERSONALITY. AND PARTLY IT IS BECAUSE HER VISIT---MORE THAN MOST STATE VISITS--IS ACCOMPANIED BY COLORFUL CEREMONY WHICH PROVIDES OBSERVERS WITH A GOOD SHOW.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT IS BEING WIDELY USED AS AN OCCASION TO REMIND AMERICANS OF THEIR TRADITIONAL TIE WITH BRITAIN--FROM WHENCE CAME NOT ONLY MOST OF THE ORIGINAL COLONISTS BUT ALSO SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS UNDERLYING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. BUT IT COULD ALSO SERVE AS A REMINDER OF AMERICA'S HISTORICAL TIES NOT ONLY WITH BRITAIN BUT WITH THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, FROM WHICH THE MAJORITY OF PRESENT-DAY AMERICANS HAVE COME. THEY---TOGETHER WITH THOSE WHO CAME FROM AFRICA AND ASIA--- HAVE MERGED TO FORM THE MODERN AMERICAN. IN A PARTICULAR SENSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH'S VISIT CELEBRATES BRITISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR. BUT IN A BROADER SENSE, HER VISIT SERVES AS A SYMBOLIC REMINDER OF HOW AMERICA--IN THE TWO HUNDRED YEARS SINCE IT CEASED TO BE A BRITISH COLONY--HAS BECOME A MEETING-PLACE AND A NEW HOME FOR PEOPLE FROM MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, WITH WHICH THEY RETAIN STRONG SENTIMENTAL AND ETHNIC TIES. AND THAT, TOO, IS PART OF THE BICENTENNIAL'S MEANING.

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